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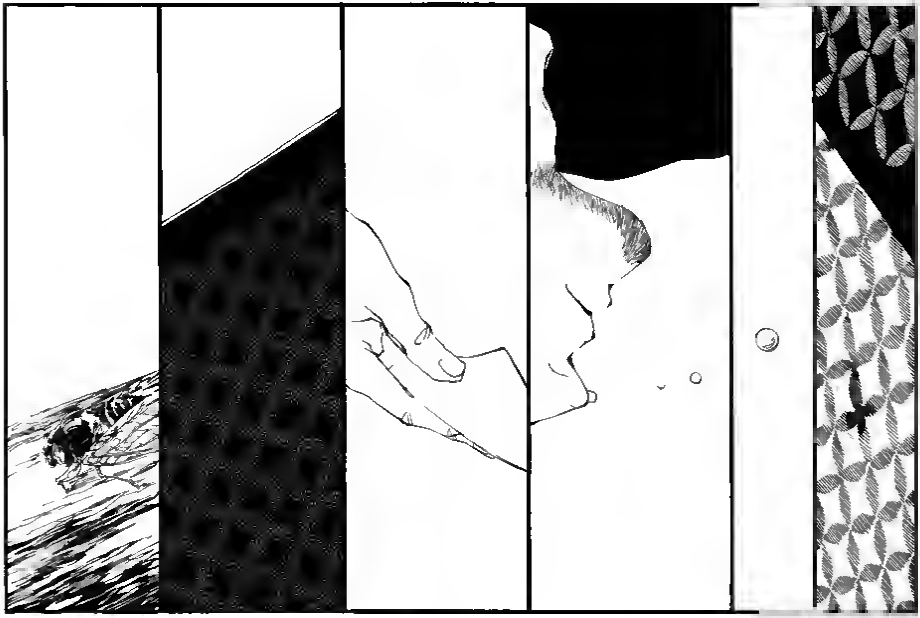


MY OLDER BROTHER CAME BACK HOME

やがて、藍になる

第一話

Yatatte,
Ao ni Naru
(Here Comes
the Blues)

YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME, COMING HOME SUDDENLY LIKE THIS
IF YOU'D TOLD ME I'D HAVE SENT KOUTA TO PICK YOU UP AT THE STATION
HAHAHA, I'M FINE WITH TAKING THE BUS.
OH, KOUTA, YOU'VE FINISHED?
YEAH, FOR NOW.
I'LL DO TAKAZAKI-SAN'S TOMORROW.
SO, DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE OFF OF WORK TAISEI?
YES... I RECENTLY QUIT MY JOB.

I'D LIKE TO STAY WITH YOU FOR A WHILE
WHICH MEANS
WELL THERE WERE VARIOUS REASONS
I'M GOING TO TAKE MY TIME LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW
WHAT WILL WE DO FOR A ROOM FOR YOU? WOULD IT BE OKAY TO SHARE A ROOM WITH KOUTA?
EH ?
TAISEI'S OLD ROOM IS COMPLETELY FULL OF SUPPLIES

THAT'S 'CAUSE I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO MAKE A MESS WITH
YOU'RE SURE KEEPING IT CLEAN, THOUGH
IS THAT ALL YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU?
THE REST WILL BE DELIVERED TOMORROW. I'VE GOTTEN RID OF ALL MY FURNITURE
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN IN HERE...
SURE
IS IT OKAY IF I BURN SOME INCENSE FOR UNCLE?

LISTEN UP KOUTA

LIKE SO. FOLLOW THE PATTERN WITHOUT WAVERING BY EVEN ONE MILLIMETER.
BECAUSE IF YOU MISS BY EVEN A LITTLE THE WHOLE PATTERN WILL BE OUT OF ALIGNMENT.
AND THEN WITH THE SAME PRECISION YOU APPLY THE GLUE TO THE [illegible] ACE
SO AT THE TIME WHEN IT'S DYED THE GLUE WILL BE COMPLETELY INVISIBLE
DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR MOTHER'S YUKATA?
KOUTA!

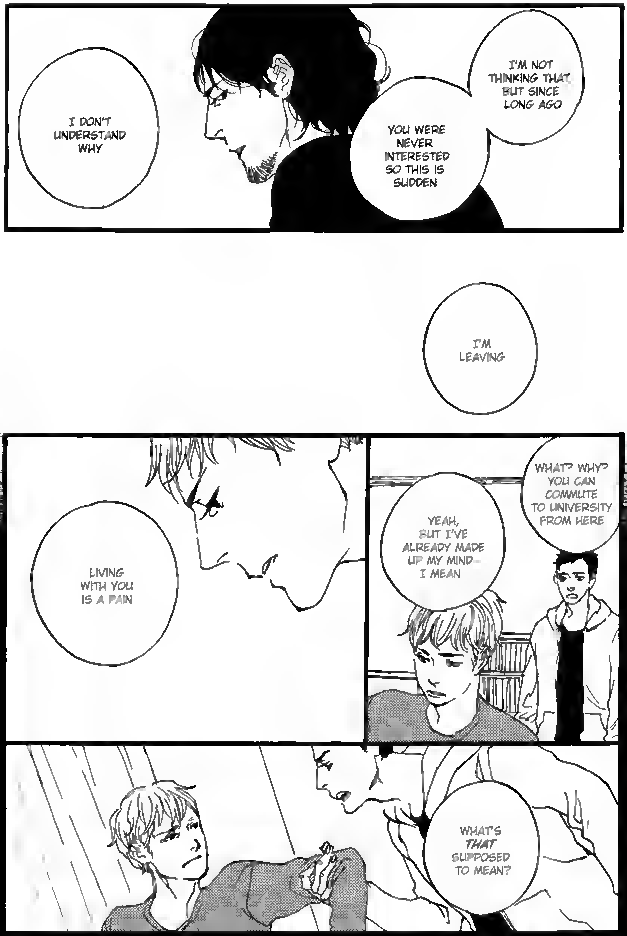
DINNER!!
AND AFTER THAT WE CAN PLAY MY NEW GAME!
YESTERDAY I HEARD MOM AND DAD TALKING
AND THEY SAID YOU AND I MIGHT BECOME BROTHERS
YOU CAN CHOOSE THE NAME OF THE HERO
BECAUSE YOUR DAD USED TO LIVE AND WORK HERE
AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES RIGHT? SO...
WHICH ONE OF US WILL BE THE OLDER BROTHER, THEN?
MY BIRTHDAY'S A MONTH EARLIER SO IT'LL BE ME! WON'T IT?

COME TO THINK OF IT...
I NEVER DID THINK OF HIM AS AN OLDER BROTHER
HEY...
HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
IT'S LIKE TEACHING SOMEONE HOW TO RIDE A BIKE
ALL YOU CAN SAY IS "DO IT"
EVEN IF YOU ASK ME HOW I DO IT
YOU COMING IN?
WELL...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE THIS IS YOUR TERRITORY...
WHAT? AM I AN ANIMAL?

ARE THESE YOUR PRINTS?
DAD HELPS ME OUT,
BUT I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE I'M REALLY SKILLED
IF I'M EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT OFF WHEN I APPLY IT...
ISN'T IT HARD?
OF COURSE IT'S HARD
AFTER ALL THIS TIME I STILL MAKE MISTAKES
IT'S KIND OF UNUSUAL, YOU SHOWING AN INTEREST IN THE WORK
OH, NO...
IT'S NOT THAT I'M INTERESTED REALLY, BUT...

IT'S ONLY WHEN HE WANTS TO BORROW SOMETHING
THAT HE RUBS THE BACK OF HIS NECK LIKE THAT
I WONDER IF IT'S TOO LATE IF I WERE TO SAY I WANT TO BECOME AN ARTISAN
SO...
WHEW. I'M HOT

KOUTA!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING?
YOU'RE THINKING "IT'S TOO LATE "
NOTHING?
ANY-THING...?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR TO SAY


I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU WERE NEVER INTERESTED SO THIS IS SUDDEN
I'M NOT THINKING THAT BUT SINCE LONG AGO
I'M LEAVING
LIVING WITH YOU IS A PAIN
YEAH, BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND— I MEAN
WHAT? WHY? YOU CAN COMMUTE TO UNIVERSITY FROM HERE
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

!
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS..
HUH ..?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD UNDERSTAND

"BECAUSE IF YOU MISS BY EVEN A LITTLE "
I COULDN'T LET MYSELF UNDERSTAND
"THE WHOLE PATTERN WILL BE OUT OF ALIGNMENT."
THAT'S BECAUSE BACK THEN
YOU SETTLED EVERYTHING BY TELLING ME "I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN."
ANYWAY. IF YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, I'M TELLING YOU NOW
TO THIS DAY, I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF YOU

...AS MY BROTHER..!
Don't say it
HIT ME.
I BET YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS

POW

BECAUSE WE'RE "BROTHERS" I CAN'T MISS BY EVEN A MILLIMETER.
BECAUSE IF I MISS BY EVEN A LITTLE THE WHOLE PATTERN WILL BE OUT OF ALIGNMENT

I BEG YOU.
TEACH ME HOW TO DO OUR CRAFT.

やがて、藍になる

えすとえむ

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When they were children, being brothers was enough reason for Taisei and Kouta to live together. However, since they've grown up, Taisei has become aware that his feelings for his little brother Kouta go beyond brotherly love.
He can't take these feelings anymore and leaves home.

Several years later, when he returns home suddenly, Taisei asks Kouta earnestly, "Teach me the family business!" And so the next chapter of life together begins.

The little brother tries to pretend he doesn't know how his older brother feels, while the older brother wants to make his younger brother acknowledge his feelings. With their dyers' studio as the setting, est em creates a Japanese-style BL based on the feelings of these step-brothers!!

東京漫画社

NAKAMA EST EM

here comes the blues

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nakamanga.com

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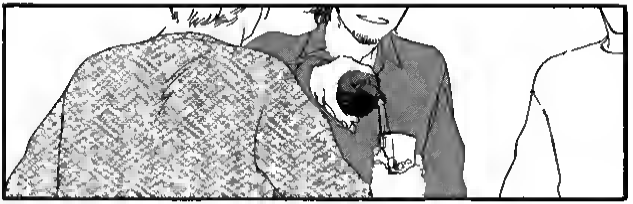
est em
Born Apnl 2.
Blood Type A
Loves her three
meals a day

やがて、藍になる

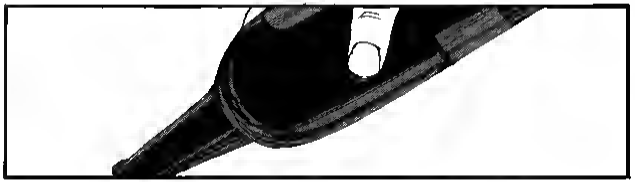
そすとえむ

MY UNCLE'S HANDS WERE DIED A DEEP, DEEP BLUE
ALL THE WAY INTO THE GROOVES

DAD'S HANDS WERE ALSO BLUE



TWO YEARS AGO AT NEW YEAR'S
I CAME HOME TO VISIT FOR JUST ONE DAY



THAT TIME I LOOKED AT KOUTA'S NAILS
UNDER THE NAILS THERE REMAINED JUST A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE

AND THAT SHOCKED ME

Here Comes the Blues

I MADE IT WHEN I WAS PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER YOU COULD CALL IT AN ALBUM OR AN ANTHOLOGY.
WHAT'S THAT?
The Indigo Dye Process
HERE THERE'S THIS ONE TOO
HEAVE HO
THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES
"THE INDIGO DYE PROCESS"

KOUTA'S BEEN HELPING OUT WITH THE WORK LATELY, BUT HE'S NOT QUITE THERE YET
SO YOU'RE LEAVING THE BUSINESS TO HIM?

I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING I WAS LEAVING IT TO ANYONE
EITHER YOU OR KOUTA
I WAS GLAD THAT YOU DECIDED ON YOUR OWN TO WORK ON THE OUTSIDE
THESE DAYS AN ARTISAN
HAS A HARD TIME MAKING A LIVING
FOR BOTH BROTHERS TO DO SO...

SINCE HE WAS LITTLE HE'D GO STAND THERE EVERY DAY
BECAUSE THE ONLY MEMORY HE HAD OF HIS FATHER WAS IN THAT SPOT
KOUTA...
AND IT'S NOT JUST THE DYING PROCESS
IT TAKES A GROWN MAN TO HANDLE THE INDIGO VATS
I'M NOT READY TO LEAVE IT TO EITHER OF YOU JUST YET

WHEN THE INDIGO IS EXPOSED TO AIR, IT TURNS FROM A LIVER COLOR TO BLUE
YOU USED THE WRONG CHARACTER..
INDIGO HAS A LIMITED LIFE-SPAN
WHERE?
FOR "INDIGO"

"T/N "Ai" is the word for indigo, but also the word for love, but they are represented by completely different Kanji.

NOT LIKE THAT
YOU'RE HOLDING THE SPATULA AT TOO WIDE AN ANGLE
HOLD IT FLATTER

MORE LIKE THIS
THIS WAY YOU DON'T PUT TOO MUCH STRENGTH INTO IT
NOW KEEP IT STRAIGHT—

JUST LIKE THAT.
UNTIL YOU GET USED TO IT, YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION.
IF YOU PRACTICE YOU'LL GET TO THE POINT WHERE IT'S AUTOMATIC
IT'S JUST GOING TO TAKE TIME.
DON'T RUSH
JUST TAKE YOUR TIME

AND DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD
I DON'T MIND TEACHING YOU BUT
JUST PROMISE ME ONE THING

YOU WON'T GIVE UP HALFWAY THROUGH
PROMISE ME...
ALL RIGHT I PROMISE
SORRY FOR HITTING YOU
ALSO...

..DAMMIT!
OH?

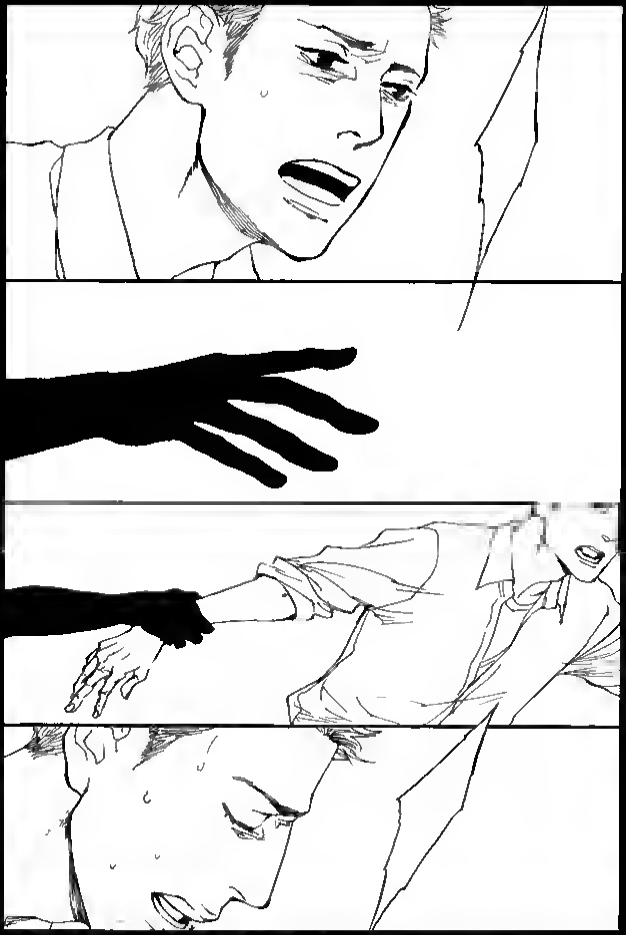
I TOLD HIM HE WOULDN'T FORGET ONCE HE LEARNED IT.
WHERE'S TAISEI?
STILL AT WORK
HE WAS HURRYING SO I TOLD HIM TO TAKE IT SLOW... BUT
WELL AT LEAST HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT IT

OKAKI-SAN SAID HE WAS CLOSING HIS WORKSHOP
SERIOUSLY? NOT ANOTHER ONE
SOMEONE APPROACHED HIM ABOUT BUILDING CONDOS THERE. HE DOESN'T HAVE A SUCCESSOR, AFTER ALL
HE ONLY HAD THE TWO DAUGHTERS?
DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN HERE EITHER
BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS TAISEI ISN'T SO STRONG
SO I'D LIKE HIM TO BE ABLE TO DO WHATEVER HE LIKES.

WILL YOU BECOME AN ARTISAN TOO?
TAISEI-KUN YOUR FAMILY ARE ARTISANS RIGHT?
TURN YOUR CAREER PLAN SURVEY IN BY MONDAY...
WELL... I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
AH SCHOOL ? YOU DO HAVE GOOD GRADES IN FINE ARTS
IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD ISN'T IT? ARE YOU PLANNING ON TAKING OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS?
OH, YES KOUTA TOLD ME HE WAS PLANNING ON UNIVERSITY
THAT MEANS THE YOUNGER BROTHER'S TAKING OVER THE BUSINESS?

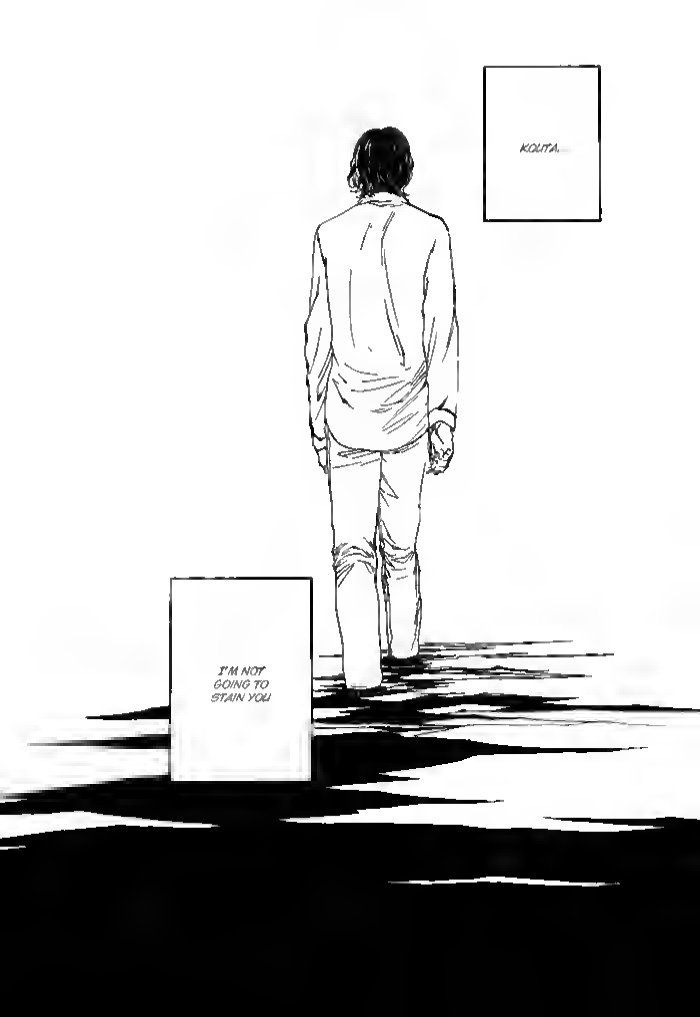
DID YOU SAY YOUR FOLKS WERE CRAFTSMEN? MAKING KIMONOS AND SUCH ?
DYERS THEY DYE FABRICS FOR YUKATAS
DYERS LIKE FOR HAKAMA?*
I'LL ACCEPT THIS BUT...
DO YOU HAVE A JOB LINED UP? IF YOU WANT A CAREER, YOU CAN'T JUST LAZE AROUND.
AS I SAID, MY FAMILY ARE ARTISANS
ALL RIGHT IF I CAN'T FIND A JOB IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I CAN WORK FOR MY FOLKS

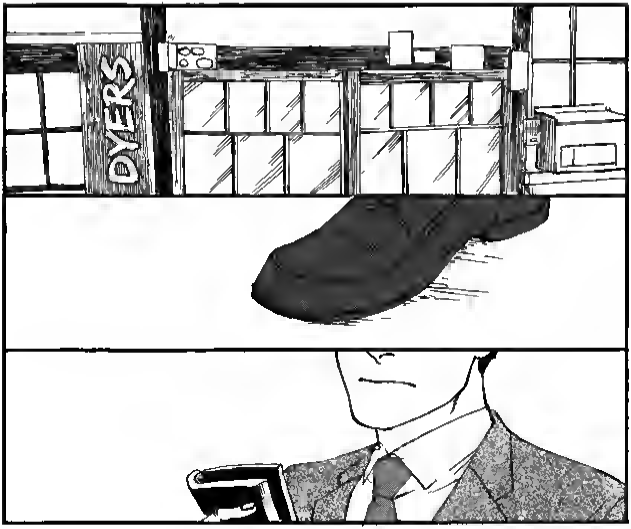
*T/N Hakama is a traditional men's split skirt sometimes worn on formal occasions.



TAISEI!!
ARE YOU OKAY...?
YOU WERE HAVING QUITE A NIGHTMARE...

SORRY...
COULD I JUST STAY LIKE THIS FOR A LITTLE?
TAISEI...?
FEELINGS OF THIS KIND STAIN LIKE INDIGO
THE DAY MAY NEVER COME WHEN I CAN PUT THEM INTO WORDS


KOUTA...
I'M NOT GOING TO STAIN YOU


DYERS

IS THIS THE PLACE?

Here Comes the Blues

SORRY FOR BARGING IN LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN
THE CRAFTSMAN IGARASHI TAIZOU IS MY UNCLE
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF PROPERLY I M IGARASHI SOUTA FROM AINA INDIGO DYE WORKSHOP IN SHIGA I M THE MANAGER THERE
A FEW DAYS AGO, HE FELL ILL AND HE S CURRENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL
HOW IS TAIZOU-SAN?
WELL...
YOU, TWO! COME GREET OUR GUEST
JUST A MINUTE WE HAVE A GUEST!
I'M HUNGRY!
OH, DEAR.
UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S DOUBTFUL WHETHER HE CAN RETURN TO WORK...

THESE ARE MY SONS TAISEI AND KOUTA
WHILE THEY'RE STILL UNSKILLED, THEY'RE HELPING OUT IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS
BUT I'D HEARD YOU ONLY HAD ONE SON...
HAHAHA... AS YOU CAN SEE THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE THE FUTURE OF YOUR STUDIO IS ASSURED
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US THOUGH... OF COURSE THERE ARE TRAINING COURSES FOR CRAFTSMEN BUT...
UNCLE'S ABSENCE WILL HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON US
I'M AFRAID IT WILL. WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO FIND A DYER OF TAIZOU-SAN'S SKILL?

ON THAT SUBJECT...
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW OF A DYER NAMED KUCHIKI SOUICHI?

HE DIED
TWENTY YEARS AGO IN AN ACCIDENT
KUCHIKI WORKED FOR US AS A DYER AT ONE TIME.
AND WHERE IS HE NOW?
OH, I'M SO
WHAT ABOUT HIM--?

KUCHIKI SOUICHI WORKED FOR US AS WELL
FROM THE WAY HE SPOKE I THOUGHT HE WAS FROM THE WEST.
BUT I NEVER KNEW HE'D WORKED FOR YOU
YES I'M ALSO SURPRISED TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT THE FACT THAT HE WORKED FOR BOTH OF US...
IT'S SURPRISING.
I ASKED AFTER HIM WITHOUT EXPECTING YOU'D KNOW OF HIM

I'M SORRY FOR TAKING UP SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME
WE'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT
KOUTA!

YOU RESEMBLE YOUR FATHER QUITE A BIT
I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT HIM

YOU KNEW...
MY FATHER?
YOU AND I ARE CLOSE IN AGE, SO I'VE ONLY HEARD ABOUT HIM
HE WAS MY UNCLE'S FAVORITE STUDENT AND MY UNCLE SAID HIS SKILL WAS AMAZING
IS THERE SOME WHERE WE CAN GO AND TALK AT OUR LEISURE?

THAT TOOK A LONG TIME
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT SO I HAD TO TAKE A DETOUR
REALLY? WHERE ABOUTS?
HEY... YOU'RE LOOKING KINDA GREEN

HERE

IT SEEMED THAT KUCHIKI WAS A TABOO SUBJECT IN OUR HOME
NOBODY WAS WILLING TO SPEAK OPENLY ABOUT HIM, BUT
WHEN I SAW YOU AT LAST YEAR'S EXHIBITION I WAS SURE OF IT
THIS IS...
KUCHIKI SOUICHI WHEN HE WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE.
YOU TWO ARE ALIKE AS TWO MELONS. IT REALLY SHOCKED ME

I KNEW THAT MY FATHER HAD WORKED THERE PREVIOUSLY !!BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME ?
KUCHIKI SOUICHI RAN AWAY

WITH IGARASHI TAIZOU'S ONLY DAUGHTER

YOUR
MOTHER.

WHEN I GET BIG, I'M GOING TO BE A DYER.
AND THEN I'LL MAKE YUKATAS FOR MAMA!
YEAH IT'S REALLY PRETTY
ISN'T IT NICE? DADDY MADE THIS YUKATA FOR ME
REALLY? WELL, I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
YOU'LL MAKE EVEN NICER ONES THAN DADDY!

KOUTA
TA
KOUTA!!
THE PATTERN'S OFF!
YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD
WHAT THE HELL? WHY ARE YOU SPACED OUT?
..OH YOU'RE RIGHT
WHY DON'T YOU REST A LITTLE
IT'S NOT AS IF WE HAVE LOTS OF ORDERS

NOTHING
WHAT?

I DON'T REMEMBER YOU SMOKING
I USED TO. I QUIT, BUT...
UM... DID THAT IGARASHI GUY SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?

I WON'T FORCE YOU, BUT
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED PLEASE TELL ME
WE'RE FAMILY.
FAMILY?
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME "I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF US AS BROTHERS"?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT THAT WAS...
!?

WE WERE NEVER BROTHERS...
FROM THE VERY START, WE'RE WE?
STOP!
ST-
...!

KOUTA...
...HEY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M LEAVING.
HUH!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU IF I'M NOT HERE RIGHT?
TELL ME!
TELL ME WHAT THAT GUY SAID TO YOU!

YOU ARE THE SOLE DESCENDENT OF THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE IGARASHI TAIZOU
WON T YOU COME WORK AS A CRAFTSMAN IN OUR STUDIO?

...NO WAY?
YOU'RE PLANNING TO LEAVE... BECAUSE OF THAT?
YES..
I THOUGHT OF THIS AS MY HOME.
BUT NOW, I...
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU'RE GOING TO THEM!
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I DO KNOW I'M NO LONGER NEEDED HERE.

I'M GRATEFUL TO MOM AND DAD
I NEEDED TO BE WITH YOU BECAUSE WE WERE BROTHERS
WHY...?
I...
BUT IN THE END, YOU AND I...
AREN'T WE JUST STRANGERS WHO HAPPENED TO GROW UP TOGETHER?

I'VE KNOWN IT FOR A LONG TIME
IN THE PAST, YOU TOLD ME WHAT BEING "A PAIN" MEANT.
...!

EVEN NOW...
EVEN NOW YOU'RE A PAIN.
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE NOW?
NEITHER BROTHERS NOR STRANGERS...

I DON'T KNOW...
STOP...
STOP TOUCHING ME

MMF...!

Here Comes the Blues/ END

Here Comes the Blues

I LOVE THE DAWN

BECAUSE IT MAKES
THE WORLD AN INDIGO BLUE

SO...
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO? ABOUT A PLACE TO LIVE...?
I'LL GO FIND A FURNISHED ROOM
I SEE.
HEY...

DON'T GO.
...SORRY.

NEITHER BROTHERS NOR STRANGERS
WHAT IS OUR RELATIONSHIP?
DID I REALLY
REACH MY HAND OUT TO YOU?
IT'S USELESS.

KOUTA'S SLEEPING IN? THAT'S UNUSUAL
HE WENT OUT EARLY THIS MORNING
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? YOU HAVE A FIGHT?
NO...
HUH!?
HE TOLD ME
HE WANTED TO RENT A ROOM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
BUT...
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO WORRIED

YOU'RE EARLY
MORNING
SAME AS ALWAYS
YO
TAISEI! CAN YOU COME HERE AND HELP ME FOR A BIT?
OH, SURE

UUUUUGH, COLD!
HOW CAN I MAKE A SOLID CONNECTION WITH HIM
WITHOUT KISSING OR TOUCHING?
HELP ME OUT

OH,
LOOK.

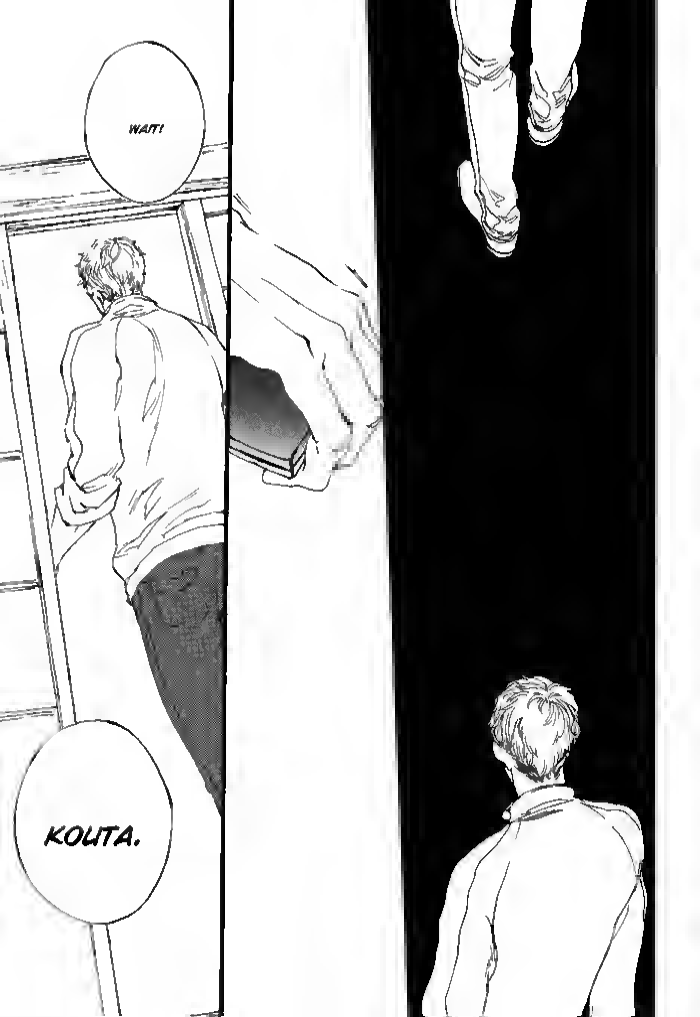
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
WHAT?
KOUTA! YOUR PHONE'S RINGING!
HE'S NOT THERE?
KOUTA!

Igarashi
0909947
RING
RING
RING
RING
HELLO?

IT'S IGARASHI
THANKS FOR OTHER DAY
SORRY TO CALL OUT OF THE BLUE BUT THE TRUTH IS UNCLE TAIZOU'S CONDITION IS GETTING WORSE...
AND HE WANTS TO SEE YOU BEFORE THE END...
BEER

DIDN'T I HEAR A PHONE RINGING IN HERE?
DUNNO

NAH MAYBE IN THE HOUSE
OH? IT WASN'T IN HERE?
OH
I THOUGHT OF THIS AS MY HOME
BUT NOW, I...


WAIT!
KOUTA.

HOW QUICK CAN YOU GET TO SHIGA?
YOU HAVE TO...
THAT TELEPHONE CALL...

DEGUCHI-SAN!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU PICK ME UP
NOT AT ALL. I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU TO COME.

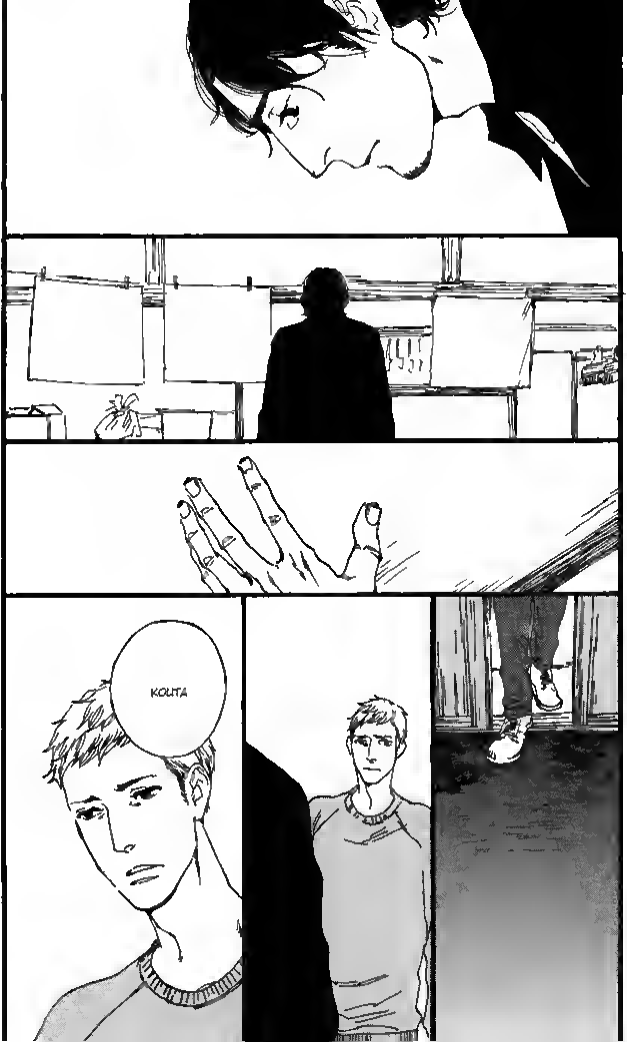
OH

YOU CAME
SUCH A SURPRISE
YOU REALLY ARE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF SOUICHI
SHOW ME YOUR HAND

REALLY?

I'VE NEVER MET HIM, BUT...
YEAH...
SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE TAIZOU-SAN...?
YEAH, STILL...
LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU'RE OUR SON.

WHAT CONNECTS US IS NOT OUR BLOOD
BUT THE DEEP INDIGO STAIN
IT'S YOUR PATH IT'S YOURS TO CHOOSE

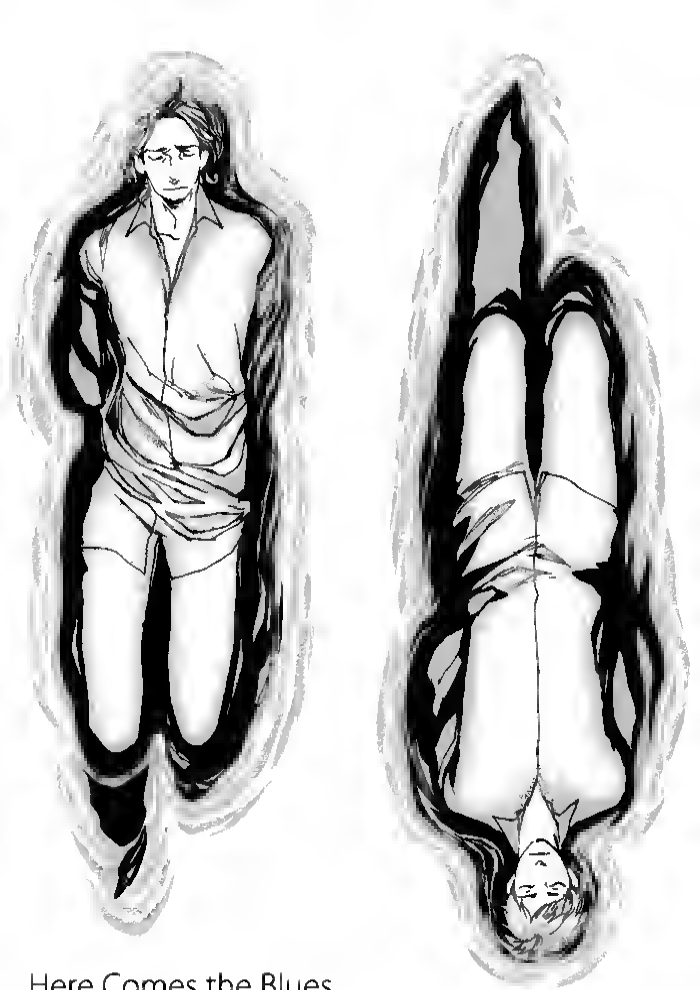

KOLITA

SORRY ABOUT THE PHONE CALL
OH... WELL
YEAH.
BUT
I REALLY WANTED TO MEET HIM
INDIGO HAS A LIMITED LIFE SPAN
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW LONG YOU CAN KEEP USING IT TO DYE CLOTH
TAIGEI.
A DAY COMES, AND THAT'S THAT. YOU CAN NO LONGER USE THAT LOT OF DYE ON ANY MORE FABRIC.

IF FEELINGS WERE INDIGO...
I'M GOING TO AINA
THEN THAT DAY WOULD BE TODAY

THE FIRST TIME I HELD HIS HAND
WAS AT HIS FATHER'S FUNERAL

AS I RECALL MY VOICE SHOOK AS I SPOKE THOSE WORDS



Here Comes the Blues

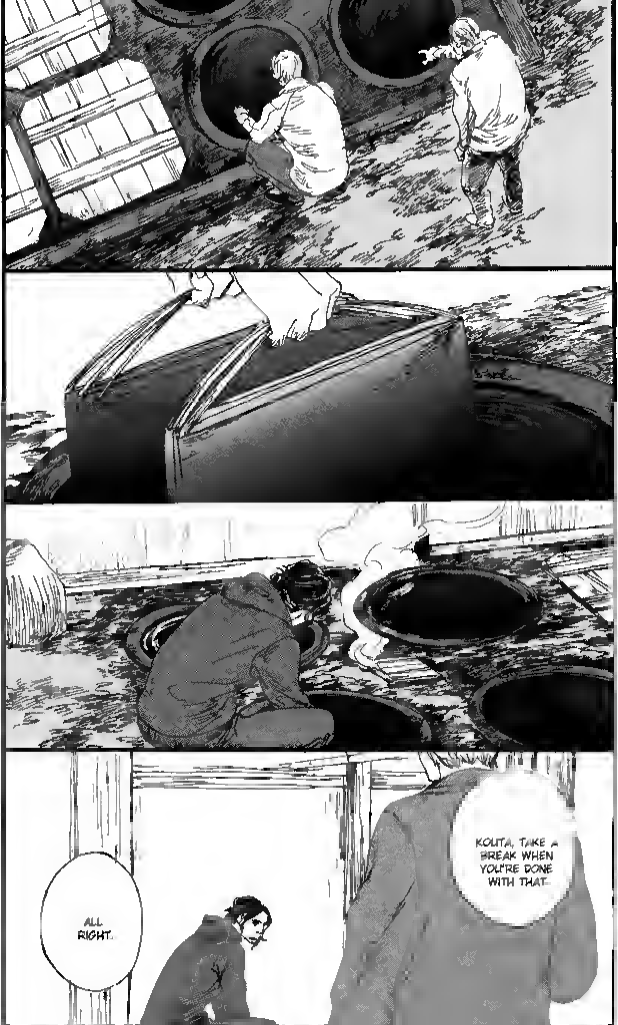
I'M GOING TO AINA

IS THAT SO?
SORRY
THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS I HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU YET, BUT...

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT DON'T WORRY

YEAH

WILL SHIGA GET SNOW...?
AND NOW THE WEATHER
Today's Weather:
TAISEI, CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND AFTER BREAKFAST?
YEAH, I'M ALREADY FINISHED
A LARGE SWATH OF WESTERN JAPAN WILL RECEIVE SNOW...
IS YOUR BACK HURTING? DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE OVER FOR YOU?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? AM I GONNA LEAVE IT TO YOU AT THIS STAGE?


KOLITA, TAKE A BREAK WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT.
ALL RIGHT.

SNOW
ARE YOU GETTING SNOW TODAY? DON'T CATCH COLD.
RE2. SNOW
MOSTLY BETTER, BUT HE CAN'T WORK FOR LONG STRETCHES.
RE. SNOW
YOU GUYS TOO. HOW'S POPS'S BACK?
RE3. SNOW
TELL HIM NOT TO OVERDO IT.

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEVER TOLD YOU.

KNOCK
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
WHAT'S WRONG!?
HURRY!
WE'RE ON FIRE!

THE FIRE DEPART-MENT!?
ON THE WAY!
HURRY! BRING WATER!

...AGH...
THE STUDIO...

WAS IT AWA...
KOUTA...
IN THE EARLY DAWN HOURS AN INDIGO DYE STUDIO THAT HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS SINCE THE EDO PERIOD BURNED DOWN IN SHIGA PREFECTURE
ONE STUDIO EMPLOYEE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE FIRE, AND TWO OTHERS HAD MINOR BURNS...
!
RRRRRR

KOJITA!?
HELLO?
I'M GLAD
SO GLAD !

YEAH, I'M FINE YEAH BYE
CLICK
TAISEI
KOUTA?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY
YEAH I ONLY GOT MINOR BURNS
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW LOOKS LIKE REBUILDING WILL BE DIFFICULT...
I'M SAYING I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO
BUT I'VE ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERING...

LIKE FOFS SAID
WHEN YOU LOOK AT OUR NAILS IT'S INDIGO RATHER THAN BLOOD THAT CONNECTS US
WE'RE NEITHER STRANGERS NOR BROTHERS
AND I THINK THE SAME GOES FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP

FOR HOLDING MY HAND

BUT I ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL YOU

ON THE DAY OF MY FATHER'S FUNERAL

THANK YOU

I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND RIGHT NOW.
HAHAHA, EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN BANDAGES?
HAHAHA.
HAHAHA!

COME BACK HOME
SO
I CAN'T COME HOME

I RECEIVED NO CALLS FROM KOUTA AFTER THAT

IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE MONTHS

KOUTA, THERE ARE
WORDS I WANT
TO SAY TO YOU

YOU APPLY THE GLUE ON THE TOP SURFACE LIKE THIS
AND WHEN IT DRIES YOU PUT IT ON THE REVERSE SIDE AS WELL
AT THAT TIME THE FRONT AND BACK SHOULD MATCH EXACTLY
AND THEN WHEN YOU DYE IT THE WHITE PLACES WILL COME OUT CLEAN

ISN'T IT HARD TO DO?
IF I ONLY PUT GLUE ON THE FRONT THE WHITE PARTS LOOK DIFFERENT
TO MAKE BOTH SIDES LINE UP EXACTLY?
IT IS HARD
BUT UNTIL YOU'RE ABLE TO DO IT
TAKE YOUR TIME AND TRY YOUR HARDEST

Here Comes the Blues/END

Taisei

Ta se[i] is the Japanese name for da qing, a biennial plant of the rape family whose stalks are two to three feet tall. Along with the true indigo plant, it was a Chinese import whose leaves are used to make indigo, though since the invention of synthetic indigo its use has declined

"TAISEI" IS AN UNUSUAL READING FOR THOSE CHARACTERS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU COME FROM A FAMILY OF ARTISANS... DON'T YOU?
IT'S ONE OF THE PLANTS USED FOR MAKING INDIGO DYE
YEAH. IT'S THE NAME OF A PLANT

WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE LITTLE BROTHER'S REALLY HOT
I SAW IT IN A MAGAZINE
OH. I KNEW ABOUT THAT
IS HE GOING TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS?

A father and son united by traditiona techniqu and bea

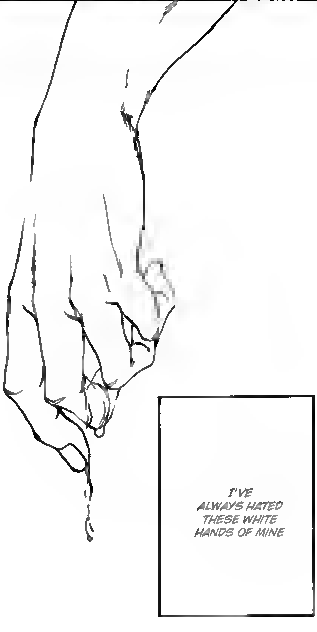
AFTER ALL THIS TIME

"HIS SON KOUTA HAS FREQUENTED THE WORKSHOP SINCE HE WAS LITTLE..."

I FEEL MY WORK IS WORTH DOING
AND I HAVE SOME-ONE TO SLEEP WITH FROM TIME TO TIME
SO WHAT IS THIS IRRITATION I'M FEELING?

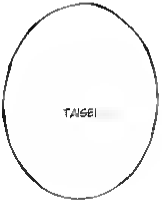
..TSK!
..NNF!

HEY TAISEI...?
YOUR HANDS ARE SURPRISINGLY BEAUTIFUL

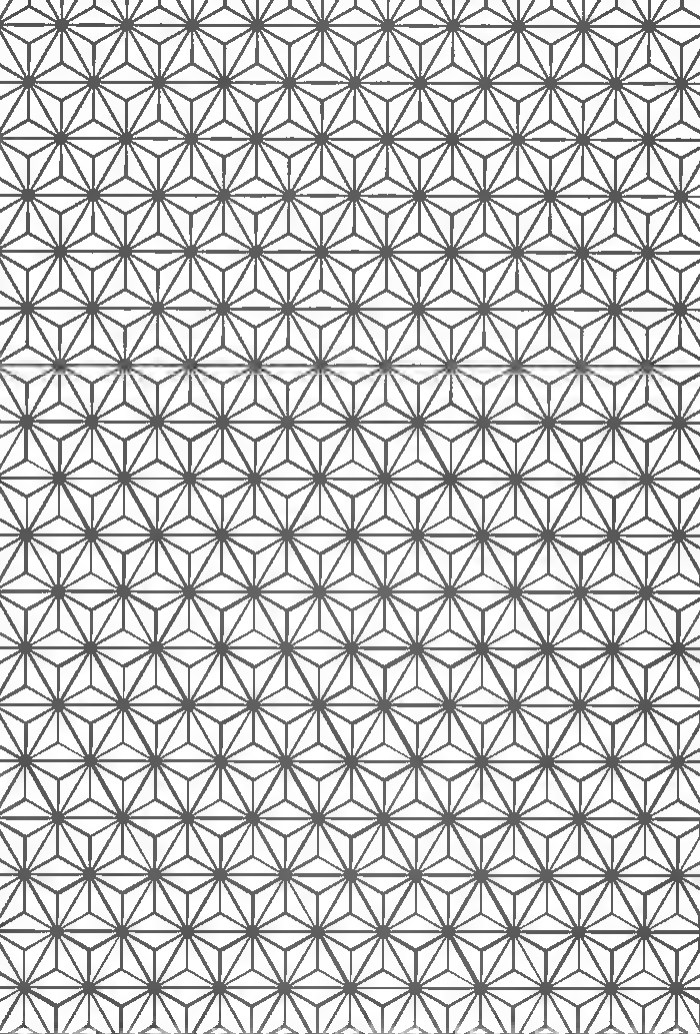

I'VE ALWAYS HATED THESE WHITE HANDS OF MINE

EVEN NOW...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME
EVEN NOW,
EVEN NOW...
BUT...

NEXT STATION, XXX CITY. PASSENGERS WHO WISH TO DISEMBARK...
IT'S REALLY HOT...
I WANT TO ASCERTAIN
THE NATURE OF THESE FEELINGS



END

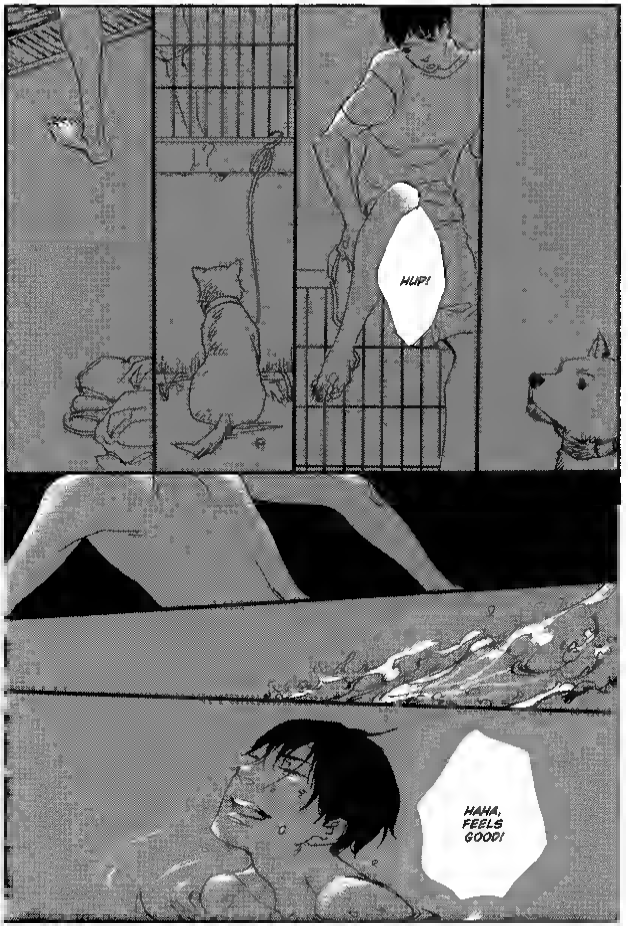


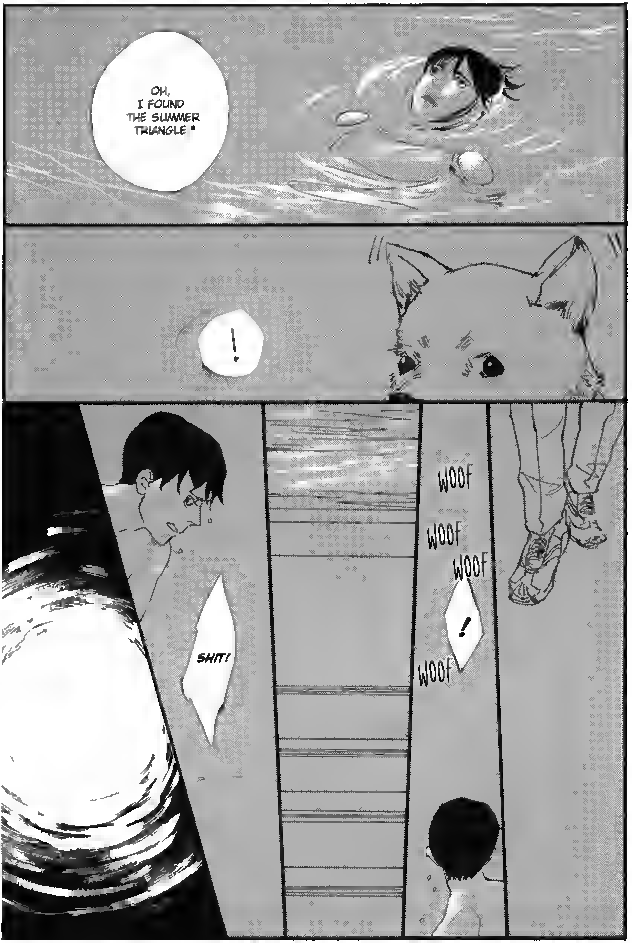
Swim, Eunyun, Swim

NAKAYAMA, LOOK AT ALL OF THEM SITTING IT OUT
NICE HUH? I WANNA BE A GIRL TOO
IT CAME YESTERDAY WHILE I WAS WATCHING TV
LOOK HOW FAT I AM.
AHAHA!
WHAT? YOU'RE SKINNY
SO ARAI'S A CLOSET HE-MAN? WHAT AN ASS
ISN'T KAWAMURA IN CLASS TWO? HE'S THE WORST
THE OTHER DAY HE WASHED THE HAND HE WAS PICKING HIS NOSE WITH IN THE POOL
HE STINKS
OOO THAT'S SO DIRTY
OH! HAVE YOU SEEN? THIS MONTH'S

AHAHA!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT HE'S JUST A LITTLE WET
AHAHA, SORRY IKETANI NAKAYAMA HIT ME
MISS...
I GOT WET AND IT'S COLD OUT, SO I'M GOING TO THE INFIRMARY
YOU THERE! STOP FOOLING AROUND! I WANT TO SEE THREE 25 METER LAPS OUT OF BOTH OF YOU!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT YOU HAVE THE FORM FOR PARENT CONFERENCES, SO MAKE SURE YOU TURN IT IN.
DID YOU GET ENOUGH?
YES THANKS FOR THE MEAL
I'M TAKING MUSASHI FOR HIS WALK
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
THE POOL... LOOKS LIKE I COULD GO IN IF I COULD GET OVER THE FENCE...


HUP!
HAHA, FEELS GOOD!



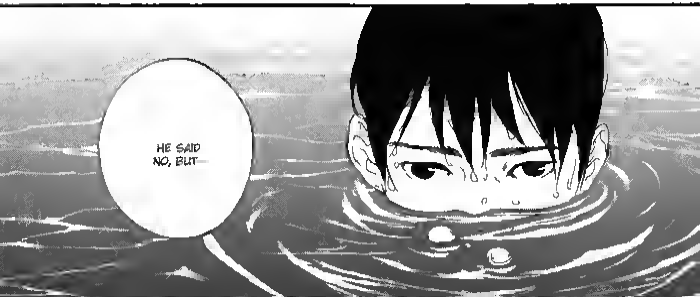
*T/N. triangle formed by the stars Altair, Deneb, and Vega.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE!?
SPEAKING POLITELY...!?
ER...
I'M SWIMMING.
IF YOU CAN SEE, THEN YOU KNOW THAT.
NAME AND CLASS!?

MASA IKETANI
SOPHOMORE
CLASS ONE
I'M NOT WEARING ANYTHING, SO PLEASE TURN AROUND.
HURRY AND GET OUT.
WHY DID YOU SNEAK IN?

WELL THAT'S
NORMALLY YOU WOULDN'T ASK, YOU'D JUST TELL ME OFF.
YOU'RE ASKING WHY?
I THOUGHT THERE'D BE A REASON FOR YOU TO BE SWIMMING ALONE
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT
NO.
CAN I COME AGAIN TOMORROW?
IF YOU'RE LEAVING, PLEASE USE THE GATE

GOOD MORNING


HE SAID NO, BUT...

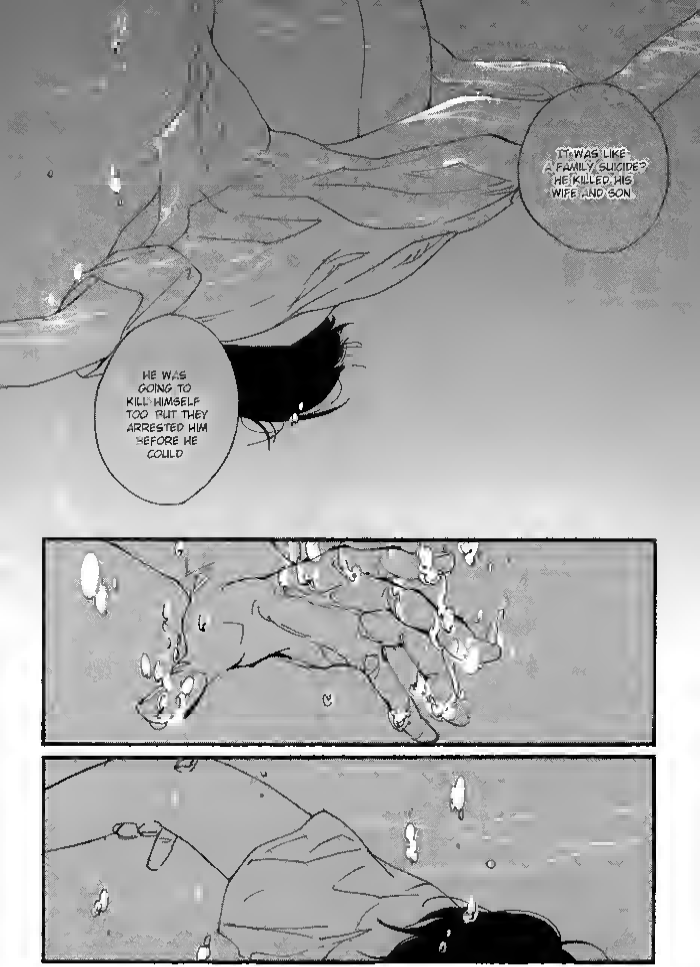
MY REASON FOR COMING TO THE POOL THIS LATE
YOU DIDN'T ASK ME AGAIN...
YOU DIDN'T SAY HELLO TO ME TODAY
HOW DO I EXPLAIN IT?
I CAN'T WHEN OTHER PEOPLE ARE IN THERE
SWEAT AND [redacted] AND EVERYTHING MIXING WITH THE WATER
TOUCHING ME AND STICKING TO MY SKIN
BUT ISN'T IT THE SAME WATER EVEN IF YOU GET IN IT NOW?
IT'S ABOUT HOW IT FEELS!

SO IT'S THAT KIND OF THING?
I GOT A CALL FROM THE SCHOOL TODAY
THEY SAID YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE POOL EVEN ONCE!
I KNOW I'VE WASHED YOUR BATHING SUIT!
MASA! COME HERE FOR A SECOND!
ARE YOU LISTENING, MASA!?
PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THIS CAN BE TRUE

SHE'S PROBABLY JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT I FIND IRRITATING
SHE'S NEVER HAPPY UNTIL SHE'S SAID EVERY-THING THAT'S ON HER MIND
MY MOM IS A REAL NAG
I USED TO
A WIFE AND A SON ABOUT YOUR AGE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, GRAMPS? YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY?
...HMM.

ARE YOU OKAY!?
HEHHEHHEH!

HEY YOU KNOW WHAT?
WHAT?
I HEARD IT FROM MY MOM.
THERE'S AN OLD GUY WHO WORKS AS THE SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD AT NIGHT.
YEAH?
THAT GUY.
SHE TOLD ME HE'S A MURDERER.
WHAT? SERIOUSLY?
SEEMS LIKE HE JUST GOT OUT OF PRISON RECENTLY.


IT WAS LIKE A FAMILY SUICIDE. HE KILLED HIS WIFE AND SON.
HE WAS GOING TO KILL HIMSELF TOO BUT THEY ARRESTED HIM BEFORE HE COULD

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
GRAWPS...?

WHY -
WHY DID YOU KILL YOUR FAMILY?
WHY?

I THINK
THERE WAS A REASON...
!?

IT HURTS.
BUT WHAT WAS IT?
IF THERE WAS...
IF THERE WAS A REASON.
MY CHEST HURTS.

MY CHEST HURTS
IT FEELS LIKE I'M DROWNING
IN THIS ATMOSPHERE

MASA! AREN'T YOU GOING TO HAVE DINNER?
DON'T NEED IT

COLD WATER

SUMMER VACATION CAME

TEPID WATER

AND I TURNED FOURTEEN

THE PAIN IN MY CHEST

GOOD MORNING.

Snow Falling Silently

I'M ALREADY HERE.
YUKI, WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW? I FORGOT TO BUY SOMETHING...
YO.
OH, SORRY.
OH.
OOH AHA, THERE'S NOTHING BUT BEER IN THE FRIDGE
DID YOU BUY A WHOLE CASE?
I SPLURGED

WELL—IT'S BETTER THAN BEING CALLED YUKI. I'M ALWAYS GETTING MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL.
I ASKED THEM IF IT WAS SHIN AS IN "SHINSHIN," THE SOUND OF SNOW FALLING. OUR NAMES REALLY GO WELL TOGETHER.
THE OTHER DAY THE CONVERSATION WITH MY PARENTS TURNED TO MY NAME.

*T/N: Yuki means snow in Japanese.

OH
WHOA IT'S COLD!
IT'S OKAY TO SMOKE INSIDE
SMOKE
WHAT?
IT'S STARTED COMING DOWN.
SO INTENTLY.
WHAT? YOU'RE STARING.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A "YUKI."

I CAN'T SLEEP WHEN IT'S THIS COLD
THEN TURN ON THE HEAT.
I CAN'T. IT DRIES MY THROAT OUT.
THEN BUY A HUMIDIFIER
HEY, CAN I COME IN WITH YOU?
SO COLD!
I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM.
I'M COLD!

WHAT'S THAT COLD THING!?
MY FOOT...
HEY, HEY, YUKI.
CAN WE CUDDLE?
WE ALREADY ARE.
MAN, YOUR FEET ARE COLD.
NOW I'M WARM.

WHOA! IT REALLY CAME DOWN!
HEY YUKI?
AFTER BREAKFAST CAN WE GO TO THE PARK AND HAVE A SNOWBALL FIGHT?
IT'S LATE LET'S GO
I'LL HURRY!
THE KIDS SURE ARE LIVELY
OH EVERYONE GOT HERE BEFORE US

!
THAT'S FOUL PLAY!
In other words, I'll try it too!
WHEN IT'S A LITTLE MELTED, THE ABILITY TO DO DAMAGE IS HIGHER
WHOA BARE-HANDED!?
YOU GOTTA BE READY!
NO FAIR STARTING WITHOUT WARNING!
GYAAAAA!
THAT'S IN REVENGE FOR YESTERDAY'S FEET

Snow Falling Silently /END

This time, thank you for taking Here Comes the Blues (Yagate, Ai ni Naru) in hand

The art of dying has been part of my life since I was a child but when it came to drawing this story I had to intrude on the work of some artisans for my observations

The beauty of the contrast they were able to achieve between the white and the indigo completely astonished me

I love indigo blue It's a marvel I'll never tire of looking at

est em